

DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER • 815 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

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DEC 1 6 1982

October 28, 1982

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VAN CULIN TO TAKE INTER-ANGLICAN OFFICE

DPS 82223

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LONDON (DPS, Oct. 28) -- An American priest with a wide and deep know-ledge of the Anglican communion has been named secretary general of the Anglican Consultative Council by the Council president, Archbishop Robert Runcie of Canterbury, and chairman, John G. Denton, OBE, of Australia.

The Rev. Samuel Van Culin, executive for World Mission at the Episcopal Church Center in New York will succeed Bishop John Howe who is retiring after 14 years in the post.

The council, which was proposed by the 1968 Lambeth Conference, is a representative body of bishops, clergy and laity from the 28 self governing Provinces of the 64 million-member Anglican Communion. Its task includes planning international mission policy and ecumenical initiatives, and fostering inter-Anglican co-operation and communication.

In addition to servicing the Council, the secretary general is chairman of the Council of the Anglican Centre in Rome and assists the Archbishop of Canterbury in servicing the Meeting of Anglican Primates and the Lambeth Conference of Bishops.

The announcement of Van Culin's appointment is the culmination of a 13-month selection process. A panel, made up of representatives from Australia, East Asia, Scotland and Uganda, received nominations from all over the world and prepared and interviewed a short list. Laity as well as clergy and bishops were considered. The final interviews and appointment were undertaken by the Council's Standing Committee which was drawn from Australia, Canada, East Asia, England, Scotland, Tanzania, Uganda, the Episcopal Church and the West Indies and also includes the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in hailing the appointment, referred to Van Culin as "someone who already seems to belong to the whole Anglican Communion rather than any one Province.

"He is known and respected all over the world for the warmth of his friendship and the range of his abilities. He will bring to his new work a rare blend of imaginative Christian sympathies and outstanding, administrative competence. I welcome his appointment and look forward to working in close harmony with him", he said.

Denton paid tribute to Howe's work of over 14 years as a "remarkable contribution to the development of mutual responsibility and partnership among the Churches of the Anglican Communion".

He said the appointment of the Council's next secretary general came at a crucial time in Communion affairs across the world. "I believe that in Dr. Van Culin the Council has appointed a man of vision, accomplishment and energy. His role will include working in close co-operation with the Churches of the Communion, and with those Churches with whom Anglicans are in dialogue".

"I am confident that all Anglicans, in every member Church, will benefit from Dr. Van Culin's ministry on behalf of us all", he added.

Van Culin, 52, has been involved in the mission work of the Church for over 20 years.

A native of Honolulu, Hawaii, he took his baccalaureate degree from Princeton University in 1952 and earned his divinity degree three years later from the Virginia Theological Seminary. The seminary awarded him the degree of Doctor of Divinity (h.c.) in 1976.

He began his ministry as curate at St. Andrew's Cathedral Parish, Honolulu in 1955 and was canon precentor there from 1956-58.

From 1958-60 he was assistant rector of St. John's Church, Lafayette Square in Washington DC, USA, after which he worked as General Secretary for Laymen International and Assistant Secretary of the Overseas Mission Society of the US Church based in Washington.

He then served successively as Executive Secretary for Africa and the Middle East and World Secretary for the unit for National and World Mission at the Episcopal Church Center, New York. He was appointed to his present position in 1976 by Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Rt. Rev. John M. Allin.

His present role has involved co-ordinating and ministering a wide variety of programs both in the U.S. and beyond. Through it he has established extensive links with the Churches of the Anglican Communion and ecumenical agencies.

His work has involved close contact with the work of the Council whose role he sees as "critically important" in the life and work of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, "co-ordinating, unifying and extending our work with a quality and partnership which was not possible before it was organized."

How does the Secretary General elect see his new role?

He stresses that "it is not a position of jurisdiction. It is a position of service. It is not a position of authority, it is a position of partnership and mutuality. Whatever authority it has is derived from the Archbishop of Canterbury, from the Council, the Primates and all the Churches".

He sees the role of the Council as assisting member Churches of the Anglican Communion to develop and deepen their international fellowship "in order that their life as Churches can be developed in service and witness".

The Council also shares an ecumenical task to "focus as much energy and co-operation as possible on the task of seeking the unity of the Universal Church, which is God's will".

He will take over officially on Jan. 1, 1983.

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EDITORS: Photographs to accompany this story are being sent from England and will be available next week.

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BESS TRUMAN -- FIRST LADY

DPS 82224

by D.E. Becker

Editor, Diocesan Bulletin, Diocese of West Missouri

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (DPS, Oct. 28) -- She was born here Feb. 13, 1885.

That was just a few weeks before Grover Cleveland was sworn in for his first term.

She died Oct. 18, 1982, in a house that had been home for four generations of her family and is only a few blocks from the little house where she had been born, Elizabeth Virginia Wallace, to her parents David W. Wallace and Madge Gates (of a family long involved in a prosperous milling company). Her father died when Bessie, as she was known as a child, was only 18 years old. From that time, 219 North Delaware St. would be home for Bess Wallace who became Bess Truman on June 28, 1919, when she and Harry Truman were married in Trinity Episcopal Church, here.

The person who was to become a distinguished First Lady of the United States, was confirmed as a young woman at Trinity Church. And Trinity was always important to her. She was a founder of the altar guild and worked on it until recent years; daughter, Mary Margaret, was baptized, confirmed and married there; she sang in the choir; and she had close friends in the parish community.

The stay of Harry and Bess Truman in Washington, D.C. began in 1934 when he was elected U.S.Senator from Missouri. The practice from the beginning was for Bess and Margaret to stay in Washington from January to June and in Independence for the rest of the year. This did change some when Harry Truman became President of the United States on April 12, 1945, after only eighty-two days as Vice-President.

She was considered one of the hardest working of all White House hostesses and personally directed the detailed planning of all social events. She reinstituted the formal White House social season which had been interrupted by the War, and personally directed the detailed planning of all social events from formal state receptions to teas and musicales. She was also very interested in the history of the White House and traditions and precedents surrounding the historic center of the Presidency. And she insisted on observing protocol and precedents established by her predecessors. When asked about her favorite period of White House history, she replied that it was during the Monroe Administration. She was taken with this period because she identified with the quiet and charming Elizabeth Monroe.

Bess Truman abolished Eleanor Roosevelt's practice of holding press conferences. But she was meticulous in answering the large volume of mail she received as the wife of the President. Described as a "down-to-earth" First Lady, it is said she rode to her old beauty shop (from days of being wife of a U.S.Senator) because she saw no reason to change.

Her exposure to the media was minimal. Perhaps because of her reluctance to grant interviews or hold press conferences it has been difficult for most people to determine just what Bess Truman "was." Margaret Truman Daniel said of her mother: "My mother, whose public facade has been unvaringly sedate and whose public utterances have been unfailingly courteous but cryptic, is perhaps the least understood member of our family. She is a woman of tremendous character which the public may sense; but in addition she is a warmhearted, kind lady with a robust sense of humor, a merry twinkling wit, and a tremendous capacity for enjoying life." In fact, that showed up when she was very young and was known as something of a tomboy. Her public facade may have led some people to misjudge or "under-judge" her.

But she did have a great "political savvy" that did not show in public utterances. She may be on tape somewhere, a television network commentator said on the day of her death, but "I simply can not find her voice anywhere."

She did have a voice. Truman called her "The Boss" and he once said,
"I owe a great deal of gratitude to Mrs. Truman on whose counsel and judgment
I frequently called."

To her service at Trinity Church, there came her daughter and family (including four grandsons); close friends and Rosalyn Carter, Nancy Reagan, and Betty Ford to mourn "one of their own," a First Lady of genuine major stature.

And to the church there came "her altar guild" which had polished and buffed and cleaned and made ready the church for one of their own. The Burial Office was conducted by the Rev. Robert Hart, Rector of the Parish. The interment was at Truman Library, Independence, Mo., in a grave next to her husband's. The marker, at Mr. Truman's direction, is to read, "First Lady, The United States of America, April 12, 1945-January 20, 1953."

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CONFERENCE EXPLORES HUNGER AMONG NATIVE AMERICANS

DPS 82224

HAYWARD, Wisc. (DPS, Oct. 28) -- A late September conference on a reservation near here may have marked the beginning of a new phase in the battle against hunger among native Americans.

The interstate conference was held Sept. 23-24 at Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Reservation, and was sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Eau Claire, through its hunger and Indian work committees.

In addition to members of those panels, representatives were present from five Wisconsin Reservations: Red Cliff, Oneida, La Courte Oreilles, Stockbridge-Munsee and Lac du Flambeau. Also present were representatives from the Great Lakes Intertribal Council, Oneida Episcopal Community, Wisconsin State Department of Development, Province V and VI Hunger Committees, the North Dakota Indian communities, and the National Committee on Indian Work.

The meeting was presided over by Bishop William C. Wantland of Eau Claire, and Chairman of the national body. Program participants included Cheri Putrow of the Great Lakes Intertribal Council, Billie Jean House of the Navajoland Episcopal Church and a staff member of the Navajo Nation Food Distribution Program, Wantland, and Betty Weeth of the National Hunger Committee.

The conference was welcomed to the reservation by the Hon. Gordon Thayer, chairman of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Council. The program included an overview of present programs operated by the Great Lakes Intertribal Council and the Oneida Reservation to combat hunger, a study of self-help programs from Navajoland, and a review of funding resources available from the Church for implementing new programs. The meeting concluded with a slide presentation on Indian hunger and a traditional Ojibwa dinner.

Conference representatives called for a review of present government policies in regard to eligibility of elderly Indian citizens for food programs, and for the establishement of a network among the ten tribes of the Great Lakes Intertribal Council to share information on hunger and related issues. The office of the Bishop of Eau Claire was asked to serve as a clearing house for the network.

The conference marked a double first: the first time the Hunger Committee and the Committee on Indian Work have jointly shared a project of this type, and the first time the Diocese of Wisconsin and major Indian agencies have cooperated on such a project.

BROWNE TO LEAD WEST AFRICA CHURCH

DPS 82226

NEW YORK (DPS, October 28, 1982) -- Barely nine months after it entered the Province of West Africa, the Diocese of Liberia will witness the installation of its bishop as archbishop of the five-nation branch of the Anglican Communion.

The provincial standing committee elected Bishop George D. Browne to the post for a ten-year term which will begin formally with his enthronement Nov. 12 in Monrovia, Liberia. He succeeds Archbishop Ishmael LeMaire of Accra, Ghana.

The election of Browne is viewed as a strong affirmation of the role of Liberia in the province and the process and timing by which it transferred in after being a part of the Episcopal Church since 1836.

Browne takes over a province of tremendous diversity and one which has been structurally weakened in recent years by the secession of the dioceses of Nigeria as a separate province. The ten remaining dioceses are located in Sierra Leone, Gambia and Guinea as well as Liberia and Ghana. They encompass 12 distinct ethnic groups and -- beyond that -- half have French and half English as widely-used second languages. The province consists of 120,000 members in 400 congregations served by 200 clergy.

The nations of the province come from a common background of colonial domination and are currently run by entrenched regimes. Many of the people remain animist -- although the Islamic faith is expanding rapidly in the area -- and the thorny question of culturally-acceptable polygamy confronts provincial pastors and theologians. Browne will carry on his apostolate in an area that is economically underdeveloped -- although most of the dioceses are marginally self-supporting -- and in which communication and travel are difficult.

His 12 years experience in Liberia, involving an upgrading of education at all levels and a concerted -- and largely successful -- drive toward financial responsibility in the face of political and social upheaval, are considered key factors in his election to the archiepscopate.

Browne, 49, was educated in Cape Palmas, Since and Cuttington College in Liberia from which he holds bachelor's degrees in education and theology. He also holds a master's degree in sacred theology from Virginia Seminary.

He worked in many areas of Liberia as pastor, teacher and counsellor before being elected to the episcopate in 1970. He is the author of two books and the co-author of two others and has served on a number of civic panels including the national reconstruction committee.

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CHURCH NEWS BRIEFS

DPS 82227

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 28) -- In a definitive county-by-county survey of 111 Judaeo-Christian church bodies, just published, the Episcopal Church was identified as including 1.2% of the total population in its active membership. The survey reported 49.7% of the U.S. population as belonging to those groups participating in the survey. While the survey, sponsored by various groups, including the National Council of Churches, the Roman Catholic Church, and others, can only indicate the minimum number of adherents of religious groups, it pinpoints the relative strength county-by-county of each of the participating groups with respect to the population as reported by the 1980 census. Copies of the survey report "Churches and Church Membership in the United States - 1980" are available from the Office of Research at the National Council of Churches.

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BELFAST, Northern Ireland (DPS, Oct. 28) -- Prejudice, misinformation, fear and violence were the legacy of Northern Ireland's religious divisions, Bishop Cahal Daly, a leading ecumenist, told Roman Catholic and Protestant churchmen, here for his installation as new head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Down and Connor.

A native son of the diocese, which includes Belfast, Daly has built a considerable reputation as an informed commentator on Northern Ireland affairs and an active ecumenist while bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois in the Irish republic the past 12 years.

The installation services in St. Peter's Pro-Cathedral drew 1,200 clergy and lay spectators, and included Cardinal Thomas O Fiaich, primate of Ireland; the papal nuncio, Msgr. Gaetano Alibrandi; Dr. Jack Weir, secretary to the Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Eric Gallagher, representing the Methodists; Bishops Robin Eames and William McCappin of the Anglican Church of Ireland; and David Bleakley of the Irish Council of Churches.

"The implanting of violence in our midst has brought a harvest of bitter grapes, grapes of wrath, grapes of sorrow," Daly told the gathering. "Violence is a primary malignancy, with secondary growths eating into the healthy tissues of whole communities. We must by every means in our power, shun violence. We must never do anything which would directly or indirectly give or seem to give support and encouragement to violence. To end violence in a just and reconciled society is our most basic task."

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DPS 2227/2

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 28) -- The Episcopal Society of Ministry on Aging (ESMA) has chosen for the 1983 theme of Age in Action Week, A CALL TO ACTION:

The Ministry of Older Adults. Presiding Bishop John M. Allin has designated Sunday, May 1, 1983, as the beginning of this year's observance, for which ESMA has again provided a collection of educational resources to every congregation. This packet was written by Gary T. Evans, Diocese of Northern Michigan, a specialist in adult religious education, who also wrote last year's materials. Suggested activities will help older adults recognize and affirm their God-given power and talent for effective ministry in everyday life. They will also aid congregations in beginning to discover what is presently helping and hindering an active ministry by older adults. For more information write ESMA, R.D. #4, Box 146A, Milford, New Jersey 08848. Tel. 201/995-2885

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TORONTO (DPS, Oct. 28) -- Canadian Anglicans are beginning to take a place in those swelling ranks of peace-makers. For the first time, a nationally sponsore conference has been called to make recommendations to assist the Church's General Synod in drawing up policy about disarmament. In the past, national policy, set by General Synod, has usually resulted from reports by Standing Committees and National Staff. The Synod meets in June of next year in Fredericton, New Brunswick The two-day conference, which will begin on Nov.11, is specifically designed to assist the Anglican Church of Canada to develop a policy on the subject of disarmament, and to increase awareness amongst its members on the issues involved. Celia Hannant, the national staff person involved in the organization of the conference declares, "It will provide an opportunity to try to grasp and comprehend the scope of the arms race and Canada's involvement in it; to reflect biblically and theologically about it; and to consider possible models for a new approach to peacemaking."

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JOHANNESBURG (DPS, Oct. 28) -- The Provincial Department of Mission of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa (CPSA) has produced a slide/tape show on the work of the Church in Southern Africa. The 24-minute show, which begins with the enthronement of the new Archbishop, the Most Rev. Philip Russell, takes excerpts from his address and gives glimpses of the six dioceses which are the focus of the province's 1982 "Call to Mission." It is available from: The Department of Mission, Box 4849, Johannesburg, South Africa.

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CHICAGO (DPS, Oct. 28) -- During a two-day session at the Church of the Ascension, Chicago, IL, the National Council of the Evangelical and Catholic Mission elected the Rt. Rev. Donald J. Davis, Bishop of Northwestern Pennsylvania, and the Rt. Rev. James D. Warner, Bishop of Nebraska, to three year terms on the Council. Also newly elected for three year terms were the Very Rev. Ralph T. Walker, Rector of St. Michael and All Angels, Denver, and Dr. Donald Cole of Portland, Me. Re-elected to three year terms were the Rt. Rev. G. Paul Reeves, Bishop of Georgia, the Rev. J.F. Titus Oates, Rector of All Saints Church, Boston, the Rev. Clarence C. Pope, Rector of St. Luke's Church, Baton Rouge, La., Mrs. William (Frances) Swinford of Lexington, Ky., and Karl O. Sharp of Minneapolis. Newly elected to one year terms were the Rev. Dorsey Henderson, Rector of St. Benedict's Church, Plantation, Florida, and James Rosenthal of Chicago. The Council approved a proposed Congress to take place in Southwest Florida next April with the Rt. Rev. William L. Stevens, Bishop of Fond du Lac heading the list of speakers. The Council learned of the formation of new chapters in Northwestern Pennsylvania, Southeast Florida, Southwest Florida, and Mississippi. With the adoption of a \$106,400 budget for 1983, and the continuance of the Rev. Canon Charles H. Osborn as Executive Secretary through 1986, the Council adjourned until its next regular meeting in May, 1983.

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